

CT-54

PARROTT'S CAGE

ea. 18th. c. (?)

Although later extended at each end by brick additions this small brick central block is one of the earliest and most interesting colonial structures in Calvert County. Of one and one half storys in height it is of brick, flemish bond construction. Although the two exposed elevations (front and rear) have been painted white a regular use of glazed headers in the brickwork can be observed. The window and door openings have segmental arches of header brick and there is a single chimney enclosed within each end wall. The original interior fabric has been replaced by modern paneling executed in an early style. The Parran family has retained ownership of this property since the mid 17th/ century. One former owner, Thomas Parran, was a surgeon during the Revolutionary War.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

The Cage

AND/OR COMMON

The Parrott's Cage

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Cage Road

CITY, TOWN

Wallville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY
Calvert**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Benjamin Parran III

Telephone #: 586-0801

STREET & NUMBER

Cage Farm

MD

CITY, TOWN

St. Leonard

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Calvert County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Prince Frederick

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CT-54

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT ☐ DETERIORATED
☒ GOOD ☐ RUINS
☐ FAIR ☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Because of the two additions and the complete replacement of the interior, there is little left to describe of the Cage other than its east and west facades. As reported in the Maryland Historical Trust Inventory, these walls have been painted white (except on west facade); however, it can still be seen that they are constructed of Flemish bond brick with glazed headers. The 1 1/2-story building is three bays wide and provided a single but divisible 20' x 40' room downstairs and a divided loft space above. The single room was heated by a massive fireplace. A 1930's photograph provided by the Parran family (appears also in H. Forman's Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland) shows the little house without its additions. It pictures a pair of dormers (there are three dormers on each side today) and shows that the ends were painted then. The photo appears to be of the west facade and shows the north end as having asymmetrical fenestration that is top sided to the east, presumably to accommodate either an enclosed chimney and/or a stairs.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Parran family has owned this property since 1649 when it was granted to William Parrott, husband of Elizabeth Parran. The deed is still in the family's possession.

It is pointed out in the various histories of this family that one of the owners of this house was Dr. Thomas Parran, a famous surgeon during the American Revolution and a founder of St. Johns College in Annapolis.

The 1940's and 1950's additions have made this a large house that is not inconsistent with the fact that it is the main dwelling for one of, if not the largest farms in Calvert County. Because the Parrans actually operate several different farms and because until recently there were a good many farm families occupying the tenant houses, it may well have been our last glimpse of the plantation system as it once was. The definition of a plantation (as opposed to a farm) is relative to its size and labor force. A plantation consists of more than one farm and has a resident labor force. There are as many as a half a dozen or more early twentieth century frame houses in the immediate vicinity of the "Cage" that were built expressly for the house tenants who worked on the farm. There were more on the other farms and a few of them are still occupied. Increasing farm mechanization and changing social patterns, however, mark an end to the plantation era and many of these buildings sit empty. Evidence that this was recently a plantation was provided by one of the older tenants who is a foreman on the farm. He recalls that the present owner's father, Mr. Ben Parran, kept a full-time carpenter in residence who was kept busy for many years building and repairing the many barns, tenant houses, and other outbuildings. These structures represent a scale of farming uncommon to this county and increasingly rare in the state.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY Description and significance statements: Wayne Nield DO

NAME / TITLE

Ms. Merry Stinson

ORGANIZATION

DATE

March 1, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Route 5 Box 262B

TELEPHONE

757-2815

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis,

STATE

Maryland 21401

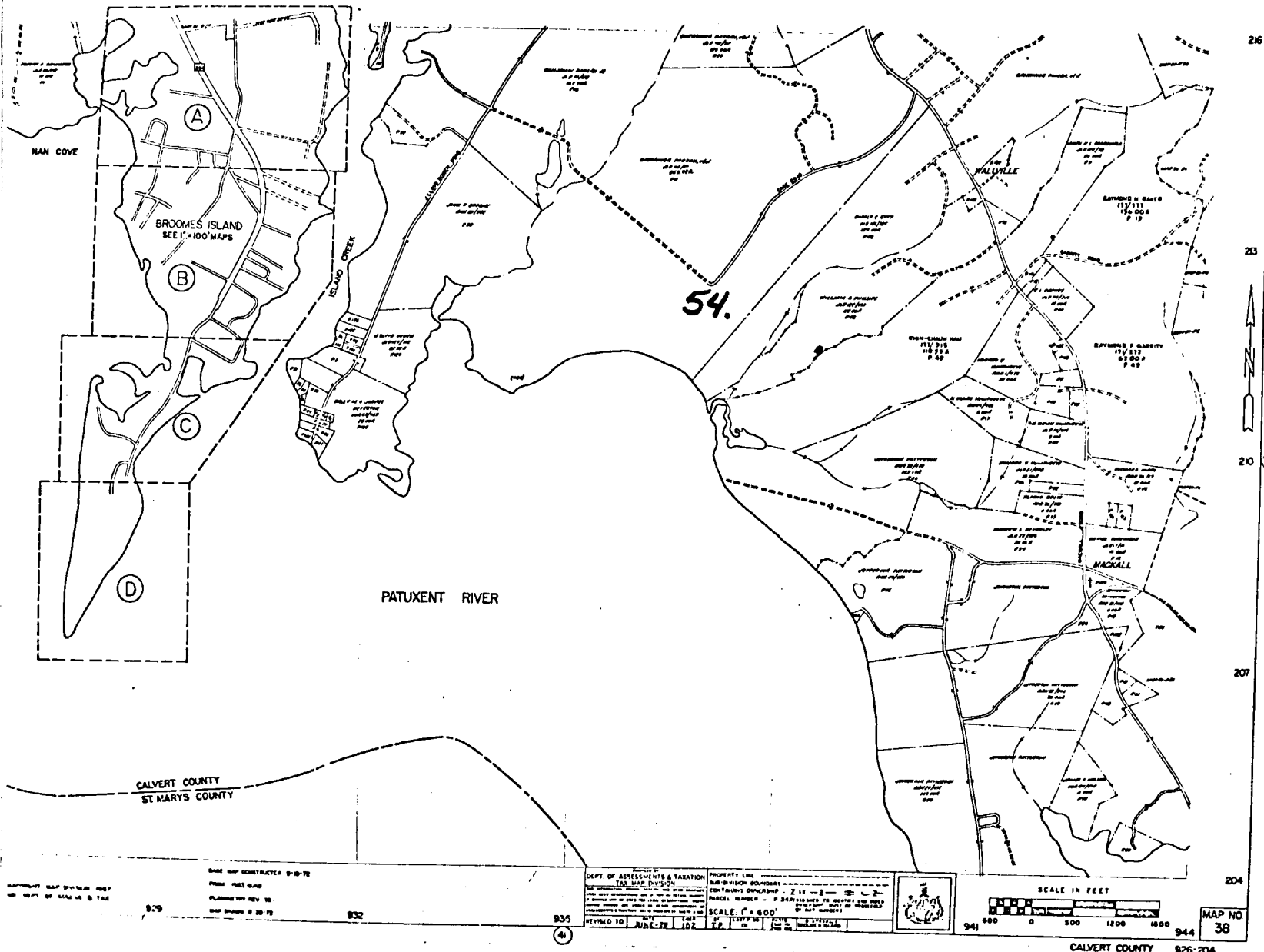
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

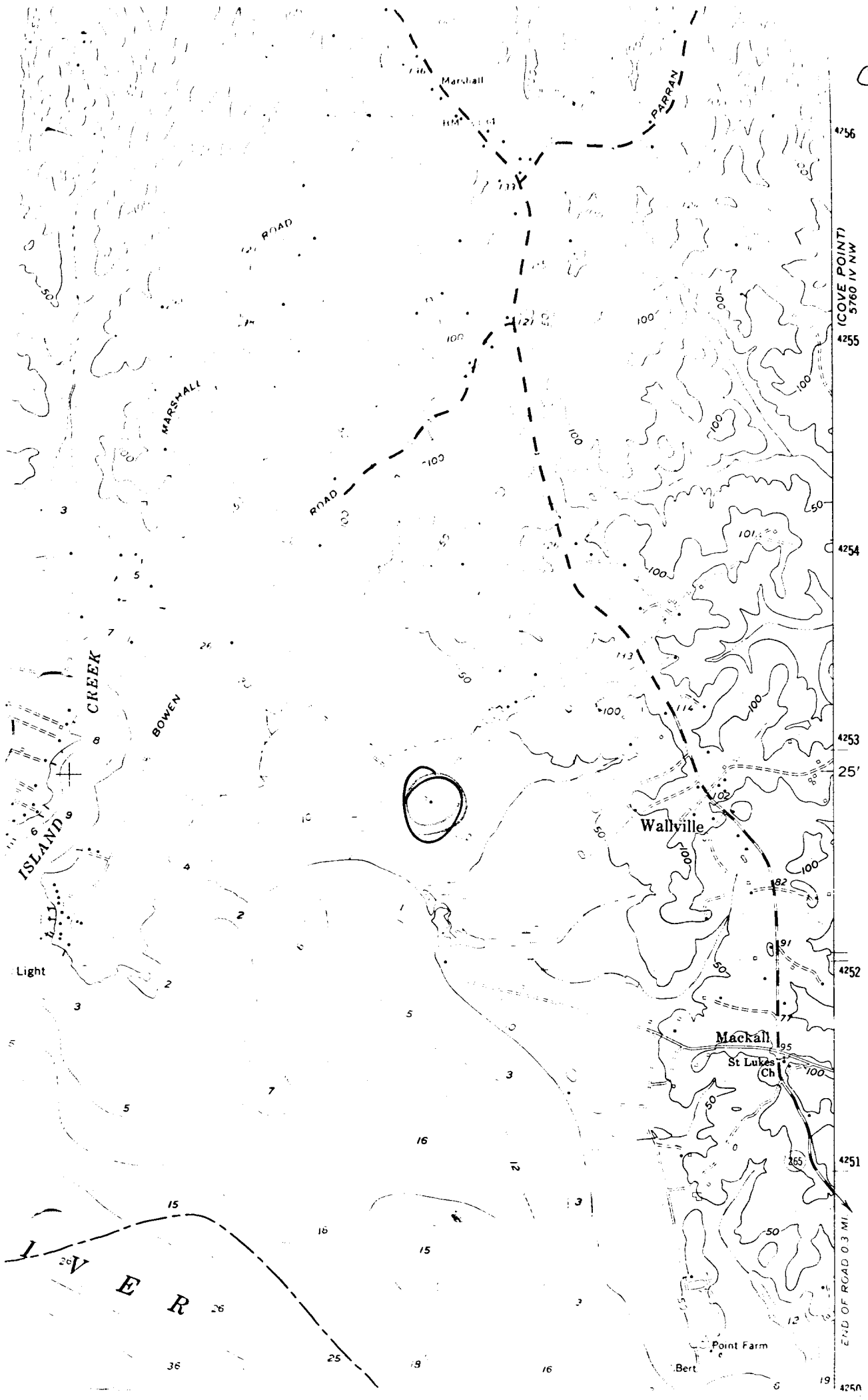
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

1. STATE		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY	
COUNTY		INVENTORY	
Maryland		CT-54	
Calvert County		2. NAME	
TOWN		Parrott's Cage	
VICINITY		DATE OR PERIOD	
STREET NO.		C. 1600 and later	
St. Leonard's Creek		STYLE	
ORIGINAL OWNER		Maryland Colonial	
John Parran		ARCHITECT	
ORIGINAL USE		Dwelling	
Dwelling		BUILDER	
PRESENT OWNER		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
Parran family			
PRESENT USE			
Dwelling			
WALL CONSTRUCTION			
Flemish Bond Brick			
NO. OF STORIES			
1-1/2			
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION			
OPEN TO PUBLIC <u>NO</u>			
<p>The small brick main section of Parrott's Cage is one of the oldest Manor houses in Calvert County. The home has never been sold; it has been in the same family since it was built - the owner has the original Lord Baltimore grant. The house is 3 bays wide and one room deep. All of the headers in the Flemish bond are glazed. The A-roof has a very steep pitch. There are segmental arches over all the windows and over the door. There is a chimney enclosed within each end wall of the house.</p> <p>All of the panelling in the interior is new - the old having been stripped out long ago, but is handmade in 18th century style from Cherry cut on the property.</p> <p>Large new wings flank this ancient small house. It is well-maintained and has beautiful grounds.</p> <p>Thomas Parran, George Washington's surgeon general during the Revolution, lived here.</p> <p><u>Excellent</u></p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE			
Endangered		Interior	
		Exterior	
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)			
7. PHOTOGRAPH			
3. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER	
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		PAB 7/10/67	
		DATE OF RECORD	

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C7-54





LA VAILLE HOUSE has the flush pent between freestanding chimneys, a type common to St. Mary's County. The driveway in to this little gambrel roof house is nearly two miles long. It was a home of the La Veille family.

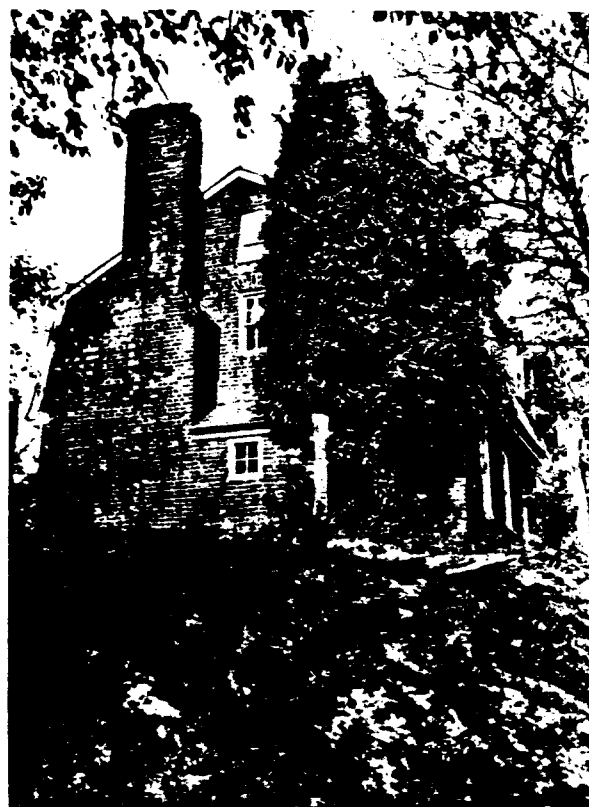


Forman, H. Chandlee

1982 Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland. Baltimore: Bodine & Associates, Inc.

(CT-54)

PARROTT'S CAGE has plain board ceilings on the two rooms of its first floor, but the fine old panelling was cut up long ago for firewood. This "seat" was built soon after 1652 by Wm. Parrott.



The second MANOR-HOUSE OF GREAT ELTONHEAD, built in the middle of the eighteenth century, had its panelled interior burnt out about 1880, leaving the mansion forlorn. The original manor house was the residence of Samuel Bourne before 1693. It was located at Drum Point and faced the Patuxent River. Samuel Bourne owned the 5000 acres of this Manor.*

* See Corrections Sheet, 9.



CT-54

TENANT Hse
~~2~~ 3

W.

(No Negative)

W. Nield
Aug. 77



CT-54

TENANT HSE #1

S.W.

(No Negative)

W. NIELD
Sum. 77



CT-54

TENANT Hse. #2

W.
(No Negative)

W. NIELD
Sum '77



CT-54
CAGE
E.

W. NIELD
AUG. 77





T-54

Parrot's Cage

Photographed by
DANIEL C. CHURCH